

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A balloon dilation catheter comprising: a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member. The tubular member comprises a first lumen disposed in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon and a second lumen for receiving a guidewire substantially along the entire length of the tubular member. The second lumen has a first opening in the tubular member and a second opening at the distal end of the tubular member. A slit-forming region is disposed longitudinally along at least a portion of the tubular member. The slit-forming region causes formation of a first slit upon separation of the guidewire from the second lumen. The subject balloon dilation catheter provides improved rapid exchange advantages of either the catheter or the guidewire used in a catheterization technique.